

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings are amended as requested in the Office action in order to advance the prosecution of this application, however, Applicants believe that the original drawings were appropriate. Replacement sheets for the amended drawings are enclosed herewith, and for the convenience of the Examiner a redline version is also provided as a courtesy to highlight the changes made.

REMARKS

In the Office action, the IDS filed 3/11/05 was noted as having a non-English reference without a concise explanation of relevance; the drawings were objected to for various informalities; the drawings were also objected to as not showing the features of claim 6; the specification was objected to for various informalities; claims 2-5, 10-20, 23-25, 31 and 37 were objected to for use of the term 'toggle-like hinging action'; claim 27, 32-35 and 38 were objected to for improper dependency; claims 10-11, 13-14, 16, 18-19, 21, 23-24, 26, 28, 31-32 and 35 were rejected as anticipated by Teeters '457; claims 1-6, 8, 12, 17, 22, 25, 33 and 36-38 were rejected as unpatentable over Teeters '457 in view of Kreidel '217 or Kreidel '116; claims 27, 30 and 34 were rejected as unpatentable over Teeters in view of French patent '298; claims 15, 20 and 29 were rejected as being unpatentable over Teeters '457 in view of Schwarz '422; claim 7 was rejected on the same basis as claim 1 further in view of French '298; and claim 9 was rejected on the same basis as claim 8 further in view of Schwarz.

As to the various non-substantive matters, Applicants apologize for the oversight in the IDS, and submit herewith the reference with a concise explanation of relevance in a supplemental IDS. The drawings have been amended as requested in the Office action. Although cancellation of claim 6 obviates the drawing objection as to that claim, it should be noted that Fig. 20 as filed illustrates a ferrule having the convex driven surface and a substantially continuous cylindrical interior wall. The specification has also been amended as suggested in the Office action. The various objected to claims have been canceled thereby obviating the objections.

As to the objection to the phrase "toggle-like hinging action", Applicants must respectfully disagree with the position of the Office. The Office action indicates that the word "toggle" means to move back and forth repeatably. Applicants are unaware of a dictionary definition of toggle that requires repeatable back and forth movement. Certainly repeatable movement can be a feature of some toggle designs, but actual repeatable movement is not a requirement of the ordinary definition of the term. For example, a 'toggle bolt' is a device with a toggle-like movement that generally is used one time, such as to hang an object from a wall. It is respectfully submitted that the word 'toggle' in its ordinary meaning does not require repeated

movement back and forth but rather aptly describes the type of movement, and therefore the objection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. If the Office continues to believe that the ordinary definition of toggle is as stated in the Office action (i.e. requiring repeatable back and forth movement), the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide the dictionary source on which that position is based.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to co-pending application 10/707,698 in the Office action mailed January 11, 2005, in which the Office withdrew the objection to 'toggle-like hinging action.' Note that the claims of that application are directed to single ferrule type tube fittings.

The cancellation of most of the claims has obviated the various rejections thereof. Applicants traverse those rejections but further comment is unnecessary in light of the cancellation.

There are at present two remaining claims and both are independent. Claim 1 as amended recites a two ferrule tube fitting in which the second ferrule, upon pull-up of the fitting, has a forward edge that is directed radially inward to penetrate the tube end, and also plastically deforms with a toggle-like hinging action that results when a rear portion of the second ferrule moves radially outward about a region of the ferrule that joins the rear portion to a collet portion of the cylindrical interior wall. Claim 37 recites that the second ferrule has a configuration that upon pull-up will cause a forward edge to penetrate an outer surface of the tube end, and also deforms with a hinging action that occurs between the back end of the ferrule and the forward edge to produce a swaged region of high gripping pressure of a portion of the cylindrical interior wall against the tube end. Both claims recite that the second ferrule is case hardened.

The claims thus recite a second ferrule that exhibits a penetrating forward edge and also exhibits a hinging action to result in a tight tube grip or collet. The art of record offers no suggestion of such action in a two ferrule tube fitting. Teeters '457 shows a roll or gyration that causes the forward edge 25 of the rear ferrule to bite the tube end. But, the rear ferrule does not exhibit the additional hinging action as recited in the present claims resulting in the collet or swaged region recited respectively in claims 1 and 37. The Kreidel references offer no suggestion of these aspects of the invention.

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As a final note, the Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending application serial no. 10/374,026 filed February 25, 2003, entitled FERRULE WITH RELIEF TO REDUCE GALLING, assigned to Examiner Daniel P. Stodola in Group Art Unit 3679, which is pending issue. It is believed that the claims are distinct but the Examiner is respectfully requested to verify independently that conclusion.

The present application is deemed to be in proper condition for allowance and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

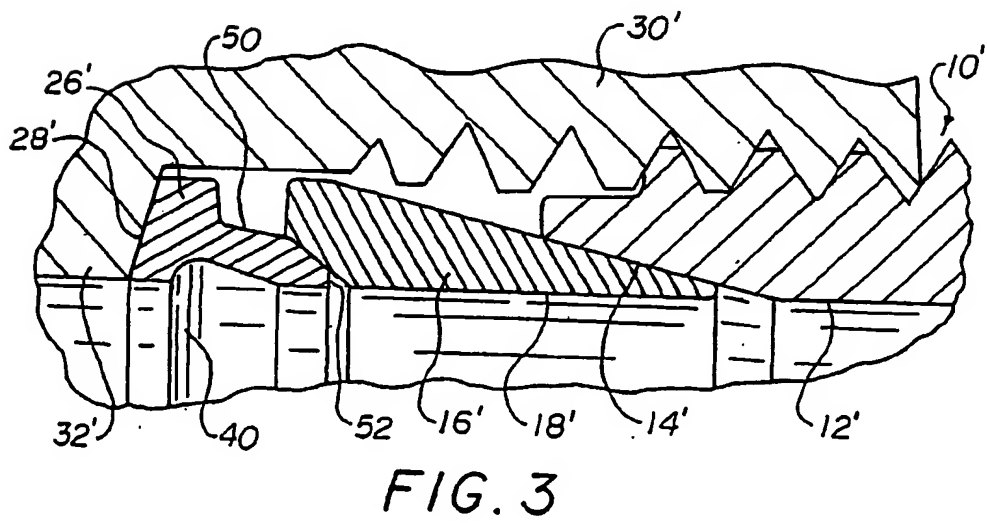
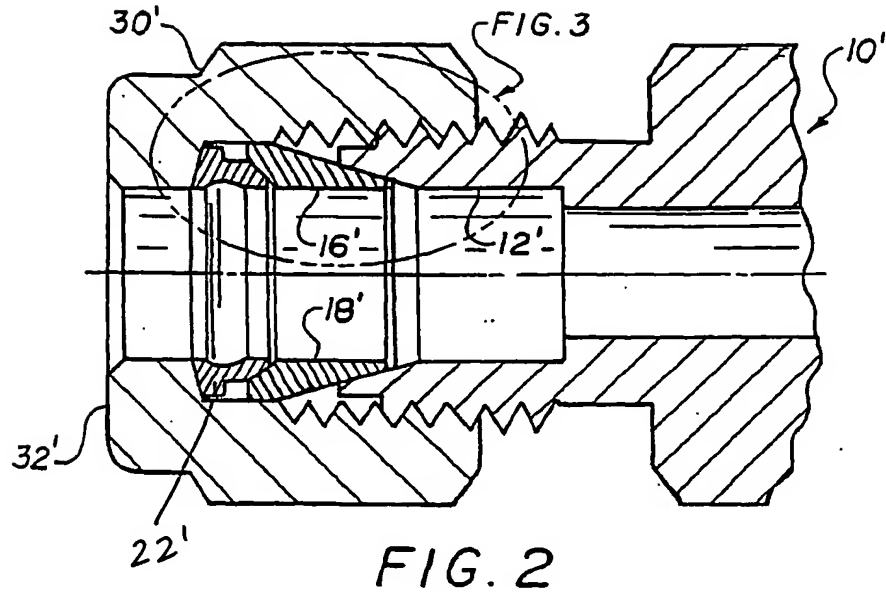
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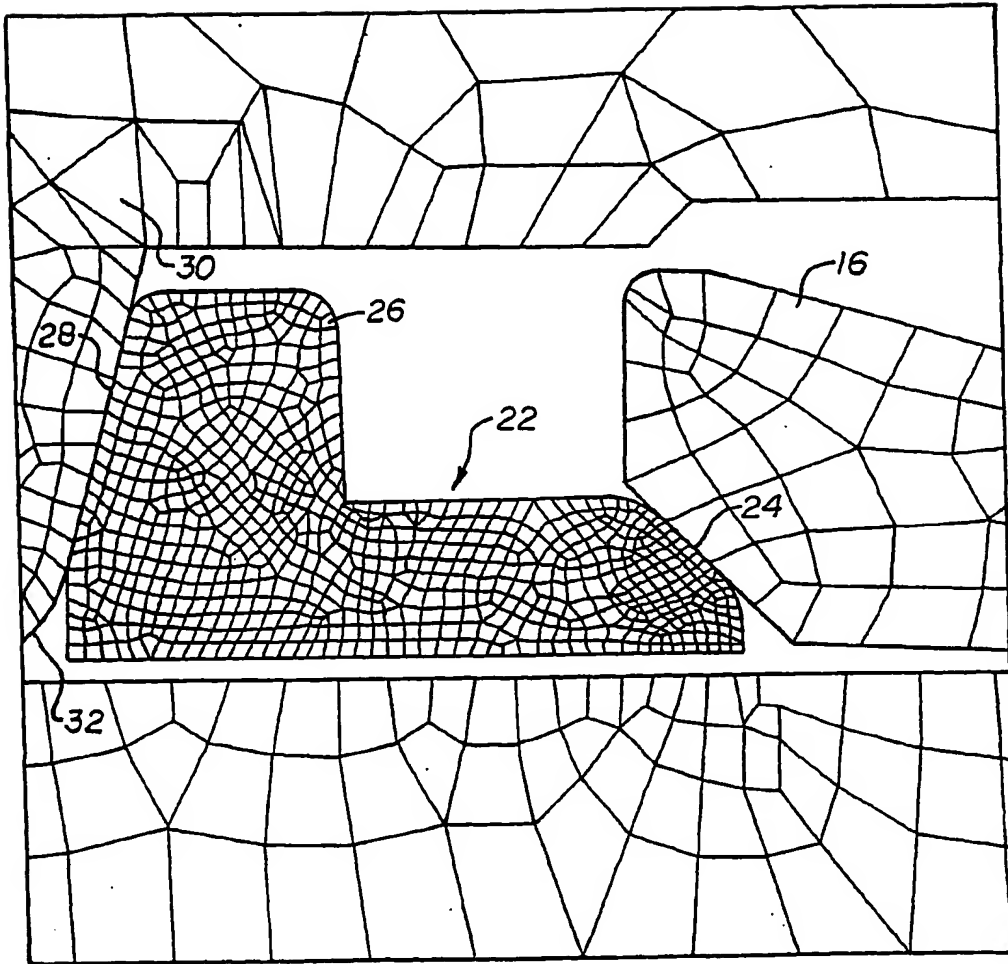


FIG. 6 (PRIOR ART)

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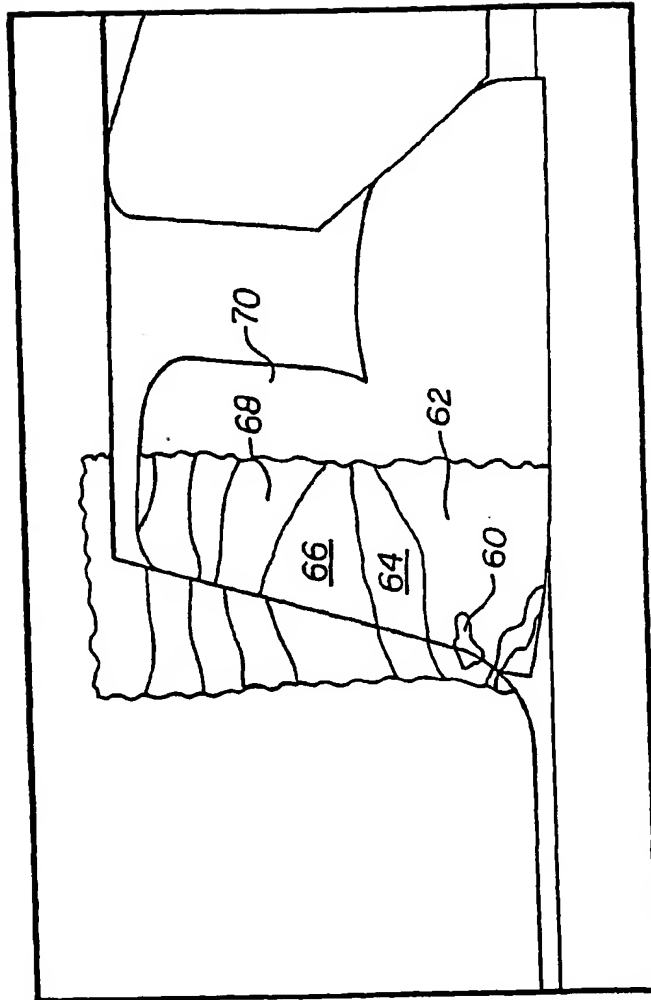


FIG. 7 (PRIOR ART)

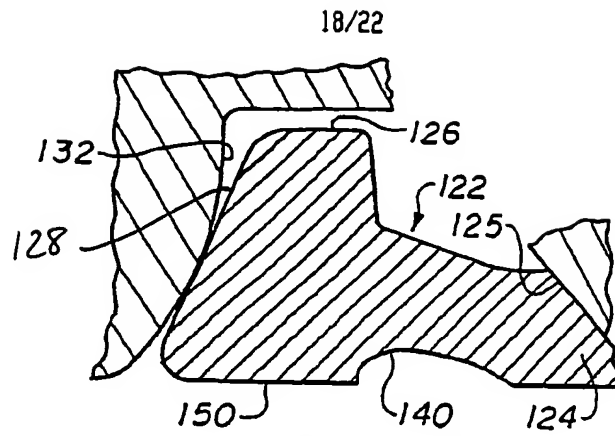


FIG. 24A

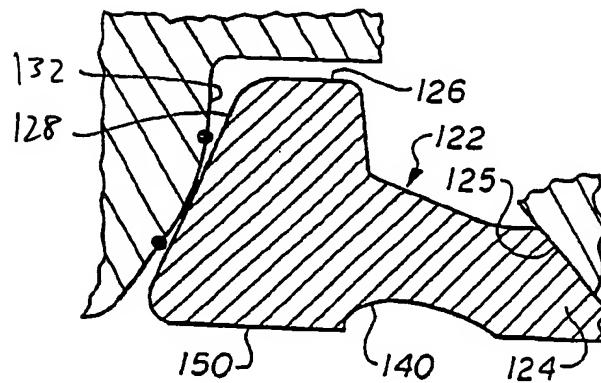


FIG. 24B

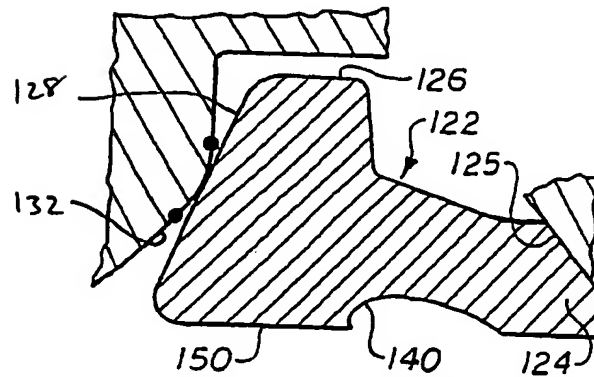


FIG. 24C

Courtesy copy
Redlined Drawings

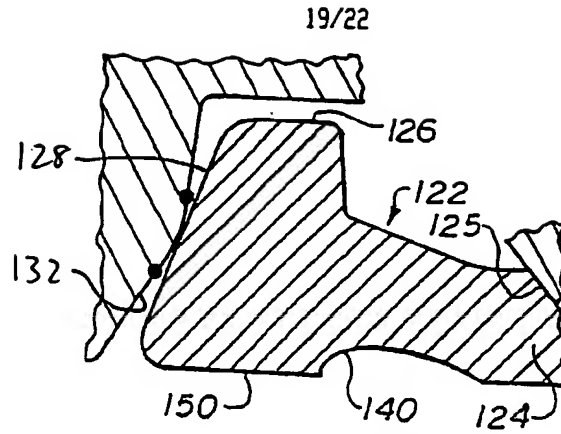


FIG. 24D

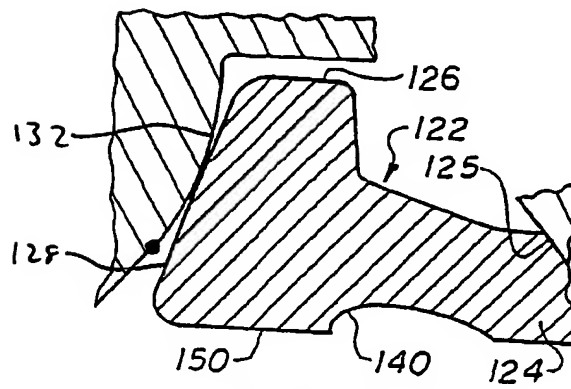


FIG. 24E

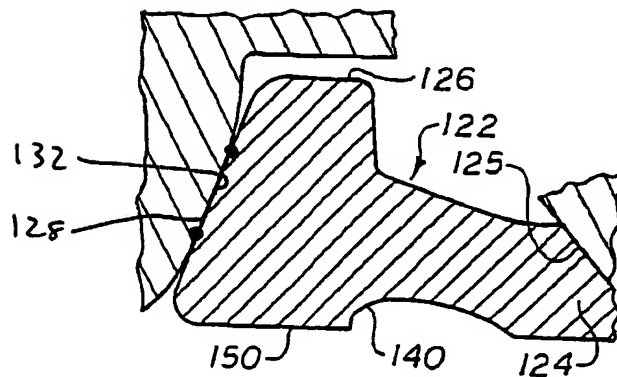


FIG. 24F

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